

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S.
RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1477, the nomination of Jessica G.L. Clarke, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

RICHARD J. DURBIN.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING
BRIGADIER GENERAL
CHARLES E. MCGEE AND STAFF
SERGEANT WAVERLY B. WOODSON, JR.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise today to honor two American heroes from our Greatest Generation: Brigadier General Charles E. McGee and Staff Sergeant Waverly B. Woodson, Jr.

McGee was a Tuskegee Airman who passed away peacefully in his home in Bethesda, MD, on January 16, 2021. He was 102. Woodson, an Army medic assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, landed on Omaha Beach on D-day and saved the lives of as many as 200 soldiers over the next 30 hours of continuous duty.

Both of these Marylanders fought with valor and distinction on behalf of a Nation that discriminated against them.

Brigadier General McGee's incandescent spirit, courage, and resolve led us to victory through some of our darkest times. He has left lasting impact on our country as a pilot, patriot, and civil rights advocate. He was born on December 7, 1919, in Cleveland, OH. His mother died soon after. His father, who was a minister, teacher, and social worker, moved the family frequently during McGee's childhood in search of work opportunities that were not easy to come by. Despite this adversity, McGee graduated from high school in Chicago in 1938 and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC.

McGee used the money he made in the CCC to help pay for college, attending the University of Illinois as an ROTC student.

When we look at the extraordinary life of Charles McGee, one thing is ex-

plicitly clear: No matter how dangerous or difficult the call, if his country needed him, he always answered. This inspiring pattern of behavior started during his sophomore year in college when, on McGee's 22nd birthday, Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor. McGee began searching for a way to serve in the war. After he heard that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had authorized a unit of Black soldiers to train as pilots in the Army Air Corps, he applied and to start flight training at the Tuskegee Army Field in Alabama and was accepted.

Charles McGee battled racial discrimination but completed flight school as 1 of only 1,000 pilots, earning his spot as a Tuskegee Airman in the first-of-its-kind, all-Black 332nd Fighter group. In 1944, just a year after graduating, he deployed to Italy as a fighter pilot in World War II. He moved up the ranks quickly, from lieutenant to captain. McGee's squadron was responsible for escorting heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force across Europe and for target-of-opportunity missions. McGee flew 136 missions across Europe. Our victory in World War II, however, was not the end of McGee's service. He remained in the Army Corps and the Air Force for another 30 years, flying in both the Korean and the Vietnam wars. He tallied a record of 409 aerial fighter combat missions over the course of three wars. In 2020, McGee received an honorary promotion to brigadier general.

While there are few individuals living or dead who have had careers as successful or significant as Charles McGee's, what made him so remarkable was his undying positive attitude and kind nature, even in the most trying situations. As a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, he was constantly subject to racial discrimination, both in the military and back home where Jim Crow Laws prevailed. In an essay McGee penned for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, he wrote, "The prevailing opinion was that blacks did not possess the intelligence or courage to be military pilots. One general even said, 'The Negro type has not the proper reflexes to make a first-rate fighter pilot.' The Tuskegee Airmen certainly proved men like him wrong."

Until the day he passed away, Charles McGee educated others about the Black experience during this time and spoke of the "equality of opportunity" that he and the Tuskegee Airmen valiantly fought to achieve.

I am humbled and proud to call Charles McGee a fellow Marylander. His daughters Charlene McGee Smith and Yvonne McGee, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild survive him. His legacy is intertwined with our Nation's legacy. He is a true American hero.

Waverly Bernard Woodson, Jr., is another true American hero. He was born on August 3, 1922, in Philadelphia and attended Lincoln University in Oxford, Pa, where he was a pre-med student.

McGee enlisted in the Army 8 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He joined the anti-aircraft artillery Officer Candidate School after scoring highly on a test, where he was one of only two Black Americans. He learned, however, that he could not become an officer because of his race. He trained as a combat medic at Camp Tyson in Paris, TN, where he experienced segregation and discrimination. He was assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, reaching the rank of corporal by the time Operation Overlord commenced.

On D-day, the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion was the only African-American battalion to participate. While Corporal Woodson was coming ashore at Omaha Beach, his landing craft tank—LCT—hit a naval mine and then was hit by an "eighty-eight" shell. Woodson suffered shrapnel injuries to his groin, inner thigh, and back. Once he reached shore and received treatment for his wounds, he set up a first-aid station and began treating other wounded soldiers. He worked continuously from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the following day, setting fractured limbs, removing bullets, amputating a foot, dispensing plasma, and reviving three men who nearly drowned while exiting their LCT; Woodson provided artificial respiration to the three men, reviving them.

Woodson's commanding officer recommended him for a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions, but the office of General John C. H. Lee determined that Woodson's actions warranted the greater honor of a Medal of Honor. U.S. Department of War special assistant to the director Phillee Nash proposed that President Franklin D. Roosevelt should give Woodson the award personally. Woodson ultimately received a Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart. The Philadelphia Tribune wrote, "The feeling is prevalent among Negroes that had Woodson been of another race the highest honor would have been granted him."

After World War II ended, Woodson hoped to study medicine, but was unable to find a medical school that would admit him as a Black American.

He returned to Lincoln University and graduated with a degree in biology in 1950. Woodson served in the Korean war, initially training combat medics before running an Army morgue. He served in the United Kingdom, France, and the Asia-Pacific. Within the United States, he also served at Fort George G. Meade, Valley Forge General Hospital, the Communicable Disease Center, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Woodson left the Army in 1952 with a final rank of staff sergeant. After leaving the Army, Woodson went on to work in the bacteriology department of the National Naval Medical Center. In 1959, he began working in the clinical pathology department of the National Institutes of Health until he retired in 1980.